

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A guide route search device, the device comprising:

a specification means for specifying unit adapted to specify a plurality of locations which a user drops in before reaching a destination;

a calculation means for calculating unit adapted to calculate an arrival time at each of the specified locations when successively visiting [[the]] those locations in a certain via-sequence one of via-sequences while avoiding passing through congested places and/or places which may be congested in accordance with predetermined traffic information, the one of via-sequences being any one of all possible routes via those locations;

a judgment means for judging unit adapted to judge whether the calculated arrival time of each location matches conditions for an arrival time condition at each location; and

a selection means for selecting unit adapted to select the via-sequence being an optimum route via the locations where the judgment [[means]] unit has judged that the conditions are matched at all the specified locations specified, as a via-sequence of the guide route.

2. (Currently Amended) The guide route search device according to claim 1, wherein the calculation [[means]] unit comprises:

a determination [[means]] part for determining a via-sequence of the specified plurality of via-locations;

a search [[means]] part for searching a route between two consecutive locations in the via-sequence;

a re-search ~~[[means]]~~ part for re-searching a route between the two locations when the searched route includes a congested place and/or a place which may be congested, so as to avoid the congested place and/or the place which may be congested; and

a time calculation ~~[[means]]~~ part for calculating an arrival time at each of the locations, either based on a travel time between the two locations of a route searched by the search ~~[[means]]~~ part when the route searched by the search ~~[[means]]~~ part does not include a congested place and/or a place which may be congested, or based on a travel time between the two locations of a route re-searched by the re-search ~~[[means]]~~ part when the route searched by the search ~~[[means]]~~ part includes a congested place and/or a place which may be congested.

3. (Currently Amended) A guide route search device, the device comprising:

a specification ~~means for specifying~~ unit adapted to specify a plurality of locations;

a determination ~~means for determining~~ unit adapted to determine a via-sequence of the specified plurality of via-locations;

a search ~~means for searching~~ unit adapted to search a route between two successive locations in the via-sequence;

a first time calculation ~~means for calculating~~ unit adapted to calculate an arrival time at each of the locations based on a travel time between the two locations in the route searched by the search ~~[[means]]~~ unit;

a first judgment ~~means for judging~~ unit adapted to judge whether the arrival time of each location calculated by the first time calculation ~~[[means]]~~ unit matches an arrival time condition at each location;

a re-search ~~means for re-searching~~ unit adapted to re-search a route between the two locations when the route which has been judged by the first judgment ~~[[means]]~~ unit to match the arrival time condition includes a congested place and/or a place which

may be congested, so as to avoid the congested place and/or the place which may be congested;

a second time calculation means-for-calculating unit adapted to calculate an arrival time at each of the locations based on a travel time between the two locations in the route re-searched by the re-search ~~[[means]]~~ unit;

a second judgment means-for-judging unit adapted to judge whether the arrival time at each location calculated by the second time calculation ~~[[means]]~~ unit matches the arrival time condition at each location; and

a selection means-for-selecting unit adapted to select as the via-sequence of a guide route a single via-sequence from the via-sequences where the first judgment ~~[[means]]~~ unit has judged that the conditions are matched at all the locations specified and which do not include congested places and/or places which may be congested, and from via-sequences where the second judgment ~~[[means]]~~ unit has judged that the conditions are matched at all the locations specified.

4. (Currently Amended) The guide route search device according to claim 3, wherein

the second time calculation ~~[[means]]~~ unit operates so as to generate arrival times for all the selected locations whenever a travel time between the two locations is computed, and

the judgment ~~[[means]]~~ unit operates so as to judge whether the arrival time of each location generated by the time calculation ~~[[means]]~~ unit matches the arrival time condition at each location whenever a travel time between the two locations is computed.

5. (Currently Amended) The guide route search device according to claim 3, wherein

the first judgment ~~[[means]]~~ unit operates so as to judge whether the arrival time at each location calculated by the first time calculation ~~[[means]]~~ unit matches a guide time slot at each location;

the second judgment ~~[[means]]~~ unit operates so as to judge whether the arrival time at each location calculated by the second time calculation ~~[[means]]~~ unit matches a guide time slot at each location; and

the re-search ~~[[means]]~~ unit operates so as to re-search a route between the two locations in which the arrival times at a portion of or all of the locations are judged by the first judgment ~~[[means]]~~ unit to be earlier than the respective guide time slots thereof, and when the route includes congested places and/or places which may be congested for via-sequences where the arrival times of the remaining locations match the respective guide time slots thereof, re-searches a route between the two locations so as to avoid the congested places and/or the places which may be congested.

6. (Currently Amended) A guide route search method, the method comprising the steps of:

specifying a plurality of locations which a user drops in before reaching a destination;

calculating the arrival time at each of the specified locations when successively visiting ~~[[the]]~~ those locations in ~~a certain via-sequence~~ one via-sequences while avoiding passing through congested places and/or places which may be congested in accordance with predetermined traffic information, the one of via-sequences being any one of all possible routes via those locations;

judging whether the calculated arrival time of each location matches ~~[[the]]~~ conditions for an arrival time condition at each location; and

selecting the via-sequence ~~where all the specified locations are judged to match arrival time conditions in the judgment step, as a guide via-sequence~~ being an optimum route via the locations wherein it has been judged by the judging step that the

conditions are matched at all the specified location, as a via-sequence of the guide route.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer program ~~which causes~~ for causing a computer to execute the steps of:

specifying a plurality of locations which a user drops in before reaching a destination;

calculating an arrival time at each of the specified locations when successively visiting ~~[[the]]~~ those locations in ~~a certain via-sequence~~ one of via-sequences while avoiding passing through congested places and/or places which may be congested in accordance with predetermined traffic information, the one of via-sequences being any one of all possible routes via those locations;

judging whether the calculated arrival time of each location matches conditions ~~for an arrival time condition~~ at each location; and

selecting a via-sequence ~~[[where]]~~ being an optimum route via the locations wherein it has been judge by the judging step that the conditions are matched at all the specified locations, as a via-sequence of the guide route ~~are judged to match arrival time conditions in the judgment step, as a guide via-sequence.~~